United Nations E/2001/62

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2001

Original: English

Substantive session of 2001
Geneva, 2-27 July 2001
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Implementation of agreed conclusions 2000/1 of the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council

At its 35th meeting, on 21 July 2000, the Economic and Social Council adopted a series of agreed conclusions on the coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the Habitat Agenda. In those agreed conclusions, the Council requested the relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, in particular the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group, to undertake a review of the follow-up of their commitments on implementing the goals of the Habitat Agenda, as part of the Habitat Agenda review process in 2001. It also requested the Secretary-General to review the matter of the participation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in all aspects of the work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and its subsidiary machinery in the light of its role as focal point in the United Nations system on implementing the Habitat Agenda. In addition, the Council requested the Secretary-General to consider adopting a Habitat Agenda task manager system to facilitate coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda by the United Nations system.

* E/2001/100.

01-36583 (E) 010601

Action by the Commission on Human Settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements, at its eighteenth session on 16 February 2001, adopted resolution 18/5 entitled "International cooperation and the review of mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda". In that resolution, the Commission called upon United Nations organizations and agencies to use, where possible, the existing coordinating mechanisms of the United Nations Development Group and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework to demonstrate their capacity and complementary action and to make such efforts visible at all levels concerning the coordinated implementation of the goals of the Habitat Agenda. The Commission also requested the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group to include this item in its agenda before the Economic and Social Council reconvened in July 2001.

In the above-mentioned resolution, the Commission on Human Settlements also welcomed the decision of the Economic and Social Council to request the Secretary-General to consider the participation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in all aspects of the work of ACC and its subsidiary machinery.

Follow-up action

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) is being invited to participate in the work of the ACC High-Level Committee on Programmes and the ACC High-Level Committee on Management. The full involvement of the Centre in the work of these two Committees should enable it to address the whole range of issues and concerns coming within the ACC framework, and to contribute to, and benefit from, their discussion at the inter-agency level. In addition, the Centre is being invited to meetings of ACC itself in relation to the discussion of items of direct concern to it. The Centre is taking steps through the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) towards the launching of the Habitat Agenda Task Manager System to facilitate coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda by the United Nations system, and to streamline reporting to the Commission on Human Settlements and to the Economic and Social Council.

With regard to the Economic and Social Council's agreed conclusion on follow-up work on the part of the United Nations Development Group, the role of the United Nations Development Group in facilitating the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the country level was one of the items of the agenda of the Group's meeting prior to the convening of the substantive session of 2001 of the Council.

Contents

	Paragraphs	*Page*
Introduction	1–2	4
Progress on implementation	3–9	4

Introduction

1. At its 35th meeting, on 21 July 2000, the Economic and Social Council adopted a series of agreed conclusions (agreed conclusions 2000/1[1]), after its consideration of the coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the Habitat Agenda,[2] under agenda item 4 (b) of the coordination segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Council.

2. In its agreed conclusions 2000/1, the Economic and Social Council requested the relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, in particular the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group, to undertake a review of the follow-up of their commitments on implementing the goals of the Habitat Agenda, as part of the Habitat Agenda review process in 2001. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to review the matter of participation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in all aspects of the work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and its subsidiary machinery, in the light of its role as focal point within the United Nations system on implementing the Habitat Agenda. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to consider adopting a Habitat Agenda task manager system to facilitate coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda by the United Nations. Also in its agreed conclusions 2000/1, the Council took note of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities which had been established to advise the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the role of local authorities in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The Council also noted the proposed establishment of an Urban Forum of agencies engaged in urbanization as a platform for the exchange of ideas and the sharing of experience. Also in its agreed conclusion 2000/1, the Council emphasized the particular significance of the commitments of the Habitat Agenda with regard to cross-cutting issues, like sustainable human settlements, urban poverty, gender, and involvement of the civil society, and recommended their inclusion when setting up working agendas for future coordination segments of the Council. Finally, the Council welcomed the decision of the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference for Human Settlements (Habitat II) to discuss a declaration on the role of cities and human settlements in the new millennium, to be adopted by the Assembly at the special session in 2001. The report of the Council for 2000 was considered by the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. The Assembly subsequently adopted resolution 55/195 in which it, inter alia, took note of agreed conclusions 2000/1 of the Council.

Progress on implementation

3. The Commission on Human Settlements, at its eighteenth session (Nairobi, 12-16 February 2001), welcomed Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 2000/1, concerning the review by the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group of the commitments made by relevant United Nations bodies and agencies on implementing the goals of the Habitat Agenda. In its resolution 18/5 entitled "International cooperation and the review of mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda", the Commission called upon United Nations organizations and agencies to use, where possible, the existing coordinating mechanisms of the United Nations Development Group and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework to demonstrate their capacity and complementary action and to make such efforts visible at all levels. The Commission also requested the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group to include this item in its agenda before the Council reconvened in July 2001.

4. In the same resolution, the Commission on Human Settlements welcomed the decision of the Economic and Social Council to request the Secretary-General to review the matter of the participation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in all aspects of the work of ACC and its subsidiary machinery. Accordingly, the Centre is being invited to participate in the work of the ACC High-Level Committee on Programmes and the ACC High-Level Committee on Management, the two newly established bodies to which ACC has delegated responsibility for promoting inter-agency coordination in substantive programme areas, as well as in the administrative and financial areas. The full involvement of the Centre in the work of these two Committees should enable it to address the whole range

of issues and concerns coming within the ACC framework, and to contribute to, and benefit from, their discussion at the inter-agency level. In addition, in accordance with the practice that applies to all entities within the United Nations proper as well as the regional commissions, the Executive Director of the Centre is being invited to meetings of ACC itself in relation to the discussion of items of direct concern to it. The Executive Director was thus invited to participate in the consideration of items relating to the follow-up to the Millennium Summit of the United Nations and to African development at the first regular session of 2001 of ACC.

5. With regard to the Council's agreed conclusion on follow-up work on the part of the United Nations Development Group, the role of the United Nations Development Group in facilitating the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the country level was one of the items in the agenda of the Group's meeting prior to the convening of the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council.

6. At its second session, the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Nairobi, 19-23 February 2001) decided to transmit the text of the draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium to the Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session for further consideration.[3] In that declaration, the preparatory committee, inter alia, supported the establishment of the Habitat Agenda Task Manager System, as it would allow better monitoring and mutual reinforcement of actions undertaken by international agencies in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.[4] Accordingly, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) is taking steps through the ACC High-Level Committee on Programmes for the launching of the Habitat Agenda Task Manager System to facilitate coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda by the United Nations system, and to streamline reporting to the Commission and to the Economic and Social Council. In its resolution 18/5, the Commission requested the Executive Director of the Centre to establish an Urban Forum, with a view to strengthen the coordination of international support to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. As requested by the Commission, the Executive Director has taken appropriate steps to promote the setting up of an Urban Forum, by merging as of 2002 the existing Urban Environment Forum and International Forum on Urban Poverty. It is the Executive Director's intention to convene the Urban Forum on a biennial basis, alternating with the sessions of the Commission.

7. The Commission on Human Settlements, in its resolution 18/10 entitled "The role of local authorities", invited the international community, as appropriate in cooperation with national Governments, to consider extending support to the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities and to international, regional and national associations and networks of local authorities, for the purpose of promoting their contribution to the work of the Commission on Human Settlements and of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

8. Responding to the request of the Economic and Social Council (agreed conclusions 2000/1, para. 14) that the regional commissions facilitate the holding of regional meetings in preparation of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), a series of regional consultations were held between September and November 2000, reflecting close cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the regional commissions: Geneva (18-20 September 2000), Bahrain (16-18 October 2000), Hangzhou, China (19-22 October 2000), Santiago de Chile (25-27 October 2000) and Addis Ababa (6-8 November 2000). These regional meetings reviewed progress at regional levels for implementing the Habitat Agenda and formulated regional priorities for the coming years. The results of these regional meetings provided valuable inputs to the report of the Executive Director to the special session on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

9. As mentioned in paragraph 6 above, the second session of the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) prepared a draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium, which shall be considered by the General Assembly at its

twenty-fifth special session as the main outcome thereof. The draft version of the declaration (HS/C/PC.2/3/Rev.1) includes several references to international cooperation and expresses support to the establishment of the Habitat Agenda Task Manager System as a tool to monitor and reinforce actions undertaken by the United Nations system of organizations and agencies in providing support to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/55/3/Rev.1), chap. V, para. 6.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Special Session, Supplement No. 2* (A/S-25/2), chap. V, sect. C, decision 2/1.

[4] Ibid., decision 2/1, para. 61.